



Maricopa County

News Release

Environmental Services Department

1001 N. Central Avenue
Suite 401
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Phone: 602-506-6611
TDD: 602-372-0622
Fax: 602-506-1874
www.maricopa.gov/envsvc

For additional information: Johnny Diloné, Public Information Officer
Environmental Services Department
Office: 602-506-6611
Cell: 602-525-2423

Julie Pasquinelli, Public Information Assistant
Office: 602-506-0386

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RWI Prevention Week 2010

Earn straight A's in preventing Recreational Water Illness

Memorial Day marks the unofficial start of summer, and Valley residents are ready to jump into the pool. To get ready, the week before Memorial Day (May 24–30) is National Recreational Water Illness (RWI) Prevention Week. During this week, all swimmers are being reminded how to safely enjoy the water without making themselves, or anyone else, sick.

RWIs are caused by swallowing, having contact with, or breathing in the mists of contaminated water in swimming pools, hot tubs, water play areas, interactive fountains, water parks, lakes, rivers, or oceans. "The best way to prevent RWIs is to keep germs out of the water in the first place," says John Kolman, director of the Maricopa County Environmental Services department.

The theme of this year's National Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week is the Triple A's of Healthy Swimming: Awareness, Action, and Advocacy.

- Awareness – be aware of the potential to get sick and that your actions can make others sick. Learn how to protect yourself and others.
- Action - check your pool water, or if you are at a public pool, ask the pool operator about chlorine and pH levels or request to see the pool's records. "You can set a good example for everyone at the pool by showering before you get in and encouraging others in your party to shower as well," says Kevin Chadwick, division manager of the Water and Waste Management Division from Maricopa County Environmental Services department. "Also, do not use the pool for bathing or as a toilet."
- Advocacy - Encourage pool operators to take steps shown to kill the germs that cause RWIs; educate other swimmers about RWIs to promote healthy swimming.

If you need to report any complaint related to a RWI, you may contact the Environmental Services Department Complaints line at: 602-506-6616.

For more information, you may call the Healthy Swimming Hotline: 602-506-7900, or visit www.maricopa.gov/EnvSvc/.

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